

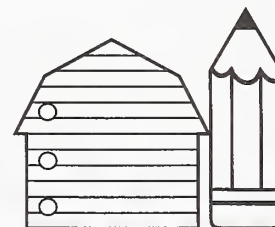
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Ag in the Classroom

Notes

United States
Department of
Agriculture



A bi-monthly newsletter for the Agriculture in the Classroom Program. Sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to help students understand the important role of agriculture in the United States economy. For information, contact the AITC National Program Leader, Room 3920, South Bldg., USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250-0991. 202/720-7925.

WINTER 1998
Vol. 13, No. 1

Dear Friend of Ag in the Classroom,

Last summer I had the privilege of visiting a developing country. Being there forced me to reflect on the enormous wealth that we enjoy every day in these United States. From the food we eat and the clothes we wear to the opportunity for education, we are a blessed nation. What you do on the front lines for Ag in the Classroom contributes to that blessing. I caught a glimpse of how dedicated the Ag in the Classroom (AITC) ambassadors are when I met with the Consortium members and planning committee to organize the upcoming annual conference.

Since I began on January 5, as the new Ag in the Classroom National Program Leader, I have been impressed with the AITC community and its commitment to this worthy cause. I see my role as the new national leader as a partner with you. I am an educator. The following highlights some of my history.

- Taught elementary school for five years. Managed the Census Bureau's Education Program, designed to introduce educators to resources available and applicable to the fulfillment of educational goals.
- Expanded the use and promotion of Census Bureau statistics with national education associations, publishers, and curriculum developers, such as: The National Council of

Teachers of Mathematics, DC Heath, Scholastic Magazine, and Mini Page.

- Sponsored partnerships outside the Census Bureau with National Geographic Society's State Geographic Alliances and the Presidential Award Winners in Mathematics and Science.
- Established proprietary tutoring business in mathematics for adults and children.
- Managed hotel contracts, conference space, and material dissemination for over 30 local and national conferences and annual meetings across the country.
- Authored and co-authored various teaching publications and training manuals.
- Facilitated office programs throughout the country within the Census Bureau's State Data Center Program and with the Bureau's Regional Offices.
- Worked with Computer Specialists to design an Internet based contact data base system.

Continued on page 2

*Tradition, Transition, Technology
1998 Ag in the Classroom
Conference*

*Williamsburg, Virginia
May 13-16, 1998
See you there!*

Agriculture in the Classroom Consortium

Mr. Mark Linder, President AITC Consortium

The need to increase the awareness of agriculture grows every day as our population becomes further removed from the land. Most children in our schools today have never been on a farm or ranch and do not know the vital role agriculture plays in their daily lives. Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) programs across the country continue to play a major role in building bridges between agriculture and education. The Agriculture in the Classroom Consortium was approved by state AITC representatives on July 15, 1997. Its purpose is to promote state and national Agriculture in the Classroom program efforts to help children, youth, teachers and other adults acquire a better understanding of agriculture. Consortium executive committee members, representing every region of the United States, were elected by their peers during the first meeting of the Consortium in July. Please contact your regional representatives and/or state AITC contact if you have questions relating to the Consortium.

National AITC Conference

The leadership of the Agriculture in the Classroom Consortium invites **everyone** who believes it is important to expand the understanding of agriculture's vital role in our society to pack your suitcase and join us May 13-16 in the historic

town of Williamsburg, Virginia. The National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference offers a unique opportunity to interact with AITC program volunteers, teachers, farmers, and representatives from universities, government agencies, commodity and agricultural organizations and youth development programs. It will be time well spent and I encourage you to make the effort to participate in this important conference. The executive board of the Consortium is working with Michele Award, Virginia Farm Bureau's AITC coordinator and Dorothy Jackson to identify speakers and plan workshops, roundtables, exhibits, general sessions and field trips that will stimulate your mind and expand your knowledge of effective methods to integrate the study of agriculture in our schools.

Welcome Dorothy Jackson!

On behalf of my Agriculture in the Classroom colleagues throughout the United States, we welcome Dorothy Jackson as national leader for USDA's Agriculture in the Classroom program. Dorothy's enthusiasm for her new job is quite apparent when you visit with her in person or over the telephone. Her experience with various state and national educational organizations will help extend Agriculture in the Classroom's awareness to many more teachers, school administrators and other business leaders involved in education. Dorothy is busy organizing USDA's Ag in the Classroom Conference; however, I know she would be glad to receive your friendly note or call.

Continued from page 1

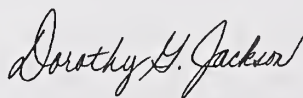
During the interview process, I presented a nine-page marketing plan of what I thought I could offer the program. My goals on the fore-front are as follows.

- Assist each state program.
- Identify and target present and potential customers.
- Establish a presence for agriculture within a variety of national teacher associations.
- Find teacher-friendly materials within the US Department of Agriculture and take them, along with the concepts of agricultural literacy, to educators, curriculum developers, and the educational media
- Enhance the Ag in the Classroom website.
- Electronically link the state representatives to strengthen open communication and sharing of ideas.

I am excited about working with you, learning about your state programs, and promoting your accomplishments. Please don't hesitate to call me on 202-720-7925 or write to me at djackson@reeusda.gov. I look forward to meeting you at the annual conference in May 13-16, 1998 in Williamsburg, VA.

As our passion for agriculture is brought to educators and students all over this country, a generation will be charged to carry our vision. Your contributions to Ag in the Classroom will be felt for years to come.

Sincerely,



Dorothy Jackson
National Program Leader
Ag in the Classroom

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1998 Ag in the Classroom National Conference

Tradition, Transition, Technology

May 13-16, 1998
Conference Highlights

Tuesday, May 12

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Project Food, Land, and People Facilitator Training (Part 1)

The materials are here and you can become one of the facilitators for your state. Get right to business by attending this workshop provided before the conference even begins.

(For questions regarding Project Food, Land and People, contact Doty Wenzel, Florida's Ag in the Classroom state contact on

850-487-4973.)

Wednesday, May 13 — Day 1

Even though the conference doesn't officially begin until we enjoy Virginia's Finest at our reception, Wednesday offers many opportunities to meet with colleagues and visit the exhibits.

8:00 am Registration Opens

8:00 am - 12:00 pm Project Food, Land, and People Facilitator Training (Part 2)

2:00 pm Exhibit Hall Opens

2:00 pm Newcomers' Meeting

3:15 pm State Contacts' Meeting

6:00 pm Reception serving Virginia's Finest

Thursday, May 14 — Day 2

Thursday will be filled with many opportunities to learn about ways to enhance your Ag in the Classroom State Program and get more teaching ideas for expanding agricultural literacy in your schools.

7:00 am Breakfast

8:00 am General Session — Welcome to Virginia

10:30 am Concurrent Workshops

12:30 pm Teacher Recognition Luncheon

2:15 pm Roundtables and Make and Take Sessions

4:00 pm Regional Meetings

5:45 pm Garden Reception

6:30 pm Banquet, taking us back to the 1700s

Friday, May 15 — Day 3

You won't want to miss this day of tours which begins with a breakfast buffet at 7:00 am.

Buses will depart at 9:00 am for farms and other agribusiness operations. There will be chances to compare antique farm equipment to modern agricultural machinery. Our day will culminate with dinner on Jamestown Island.

Saturday, May 16 — Day 4

More of the same good stuff; opportunities to learn and interact with colleagues.

7:30 am Continental Breakfast

9:00 am Roundtables and Make and Take Sessions

10:30 am Concurrent Workshops

12:15 pm Luncheon with Speaker

2:00 pm Conference Adjourns

2:30 - 4:00pm Consortium Meeting

Williamsburg, VA. is an interesting place. You will probably want to visit the shops, governor's mansion, and enjoy a lunch in one of the historic taverns at your leisure. Also, you will be able to purchase discount tickets from the hotel for a more extensive tour.

Some of the Conference Workshops:

- Soybean Science
- Ag Venture
- Setting Up & Using a Children's Garden
- Careers in Agriculture
- Working with the Ag Media
- Panel on Funding Sources
- Biotechnology
- Entomology

Jamestown, VA was the first permanent English settlement in America. One of the most important reasons for the success of the Jamestown settlement was that the colonists learned to produce their own food.

Details, Details, Details

Making Reservations

- Please fill out the Registration form and get it to us as quickly as possible.
- Hurry to make your hotel reservations with the Fort Magruder Inn and Conference Center by calling 1-800-331-5204 or 757-221-6903. May is a busy time of year in Williamsburg, VA. The room rate is \$86.00 + 8.5% sales tax for either a single or a double room. A limited number of rooms have been blocked for May 9, 10, and 11 as well as for the Pre-conference and Conference. You must make hotel registrations by April 10 to get the conference rate.

Register to Win
 Receive a chance to WIN hotel accommodations for two days, one night stay, and a continental breakfast at the Fort Magruder Inn, redeemable at any time. Just register by April 10 for a chance to win.

Getting To The Conference

- The Fort Magruder Inn is located in southeastern Virginia. The Norfolk, Richmond, and Washington National Airports service the Inn; as well as Amtrak's Old Dominion. If you want your own wheels, car rentals are available at the airports.
- Take I-64 to Exit 242A Route 199 (Busch Gardens/Williamsburg). Follow Route 199 to Route 60 East. Make a left on Route 60 West. Fort Magruder Inn is located one mile on the left on Route 60.

Exhibiting in the Exhibit Hall

- Exhibit Hall hours:
 May 13 — Set Up 8:30 am- 2:00 pm
 May 13 — Exhibit Hours 2:00 am - 8:00 pm
 (Reception for Ag in the Classroom with Virginia's Finest will be in the Exhibit Hall.)
 May 14 — Exhibit Hours - 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
 (To encourage participation with the exhibits, there will be 3 breaks held in the Exhibit Hall.)
 May 16 — You may take down the exhibits at any time between May 14 at 6:00 pm and Saturday at 5:00 pm.
- One price includes all of this: Virginia's Finest Reception, breaks, one 8' table, and chair.
- Send your materials to:
 Fort Magruder Inn and Conference Center
 6945 Pocahontas Trail
 Rt. 60 East
 Williamsburg, VA 23185
- Be sure that your packages are marked, "HOLD FOR ARRIVAL: MICHELE AWAD, AG IN THE CLASSROOM ANNUAL CONFERENCE EXHIBIT HALL." All of your materials need to have your name and your organization's name. Plan for your materials to arrive between May 10 -13, otherwise they might just get lost in the shuffle.
- Notify the hotel in advance if you are sending materials. There is an additional hotel fee (\$300) if the boxes don't arrive between May 10 and 13. All materials must be picked up by May 18.

1998 Ag in the Classroom Conference Registration Form

Name _____

Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone Number _____ Fax Number _____

Email _____

Choose all affiliations that apply to you:

☐ AITC State Contact

☐ Teacher

☐ AITC Board Member

☐ Commodity Group

☐ FFA

☐ Farm Bureau

☐ 4-H

☐ Extension Service

☐ University or College

☐ School Principal/Administrator

☐ Education Board Member

☐ Volunteer

☐ Other: Please specify. _____

Check your registration preference:

Cost will include seminars, meals, tours, and a whole lot more!! Bring an extra bag for all of your goodies.

☐ To get the early special rate is \$195 if you register by April 10.

☐ Conference Registration after April 10 is \$245 per person.

☐ If you have to come just for the day, the cost is \$80 per day. Specify the day.

☐ Project Food, Land, and People Facilitator Training is \$80.

☐ Please specify the time of your arrival and departure.

Make checks payable to and mail or fax your registration to:

Virginia Foundation for Ag in the Classroom

P.O. Box 27552

Richmond, VA 23261

Phone: 804-784-1234

Fax: 804-784-2579

Exhibitor Registration Form

All exhibit registration forms and payment MUST be in by April 24th.

Name _____

Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone Number _____ Fax Number _____

Email _____

Choose all affiliation that apply to you:

☐ AITC State Contact

☐ Teacher

☐ AITC Board Member

☐ Commodity Group

☐ FFA

☐ Farm Bureau

☐ 4-H

☐ Extension Service

☐ University or College

☐ School Principal/Administrator

☐ Education Board Member

☐ Volunteer

☐ Other: Please specify _____

Check your registration preference:

One price includes all of this: Virginia's Finest Reception, breaks, one 8' table, and chair.

☐ State Exhibits — Free

☐ Exhibit Space — \$275

☐ Exhibit Space and Entire Conference (includes meals, tours, workshops for one person) — \$375

Make checks payable to and mail or fax your registration to:

Virginia Foundation for Ag in the Classroom

P.O. Box 27552

Richmond, VA 23261

Phone: 804-784-1234

Fax: 804-784-2579

Ag in the Classroom---State Contacts

The individuals listed here are key reference persons in each state. If you have any questions, want to make reports, or need more information about your state's Ag in the Classroom program, contact the following:

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ag_in_the_classroom.html

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**Tradition, Transition, Technology
1998 Ag in the Classroom
Conference**

Williamsburg, Virginia
May 13-16, 1998
See you there!

Ag in the Classroom Notes

Room 3920, South Bldg.
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250-2251

01475 22036/20250FUGAS 4 0001
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NAL ROOM 002 NAL BLDG
BELTVILLE
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To stop mailing or to change
your address send mailing label
to above address.